

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LPOPE:SEB
APPROVED BY NEA:MDRAPER
IO:GHELMAN
S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----063655 150209Z /70

O 150135Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 151852

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: HADDAD'S CONDITIONS

1. IF UNIFIL IS TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE SUCCESSFULLY, IT
IS ESSENTIAL THAT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS BE WORKED OUT
ALLOWING IT FULL DEPLOYMENT IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS.
WE BELIEVE ALL PARTIES HAVE AN INTEREST IN AVOIDING A
CONFRONTATION. FOR THE MOMENT WE WANT TO STAY OUT OF THE
MIDDLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO LET THE PARTIES WORK OUT THE
PROBLEM OF UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN CHRISTIAN AREAS THEMSELVES,
BUT WE MUST DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT UNIFIL
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IS ALLOWED TO DO ITS JOB. OUR BASIC POSTURE IS TO PROVIDE
SUPPORT FOR THE UN WHILE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE.

2. FOR TEL AVIV: YOU SHOULD CONTINUE IN YOUR REGULAR
CONTACTS WITH WEIZMAN AND EVRON TO URGE THAT
ISRAEL USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH HADDAD AND THE OTHER
CHRISTIAN FORCES TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S MISSION, DRAWING

ON THE FOLLOWING ARGUMENTS:

-- THE ISRAELI ACTION IN APPEARING TO TURN OVER CONTROL TO HADDAD INSTEAD OF THE UN HAS ATTRACTED UNFAVORABLE

NOTICE AND DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM ISRAEL'S COMPLIANCE WITH RES. 425. IT HAS SHIFTED THE FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM FROM PALESTINIAN ATTEMPTS TO INFILTRATE SOUTH TO THE SEEMING UNWILLINGNESS OF ISRAELI-SUPPORTED CHRISTIANS TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE UN.

-- SOME OF THE CONDITIONS POSED BY HADDAD TO THE UN MAY BE ACCEPTABLE, OTHERS CLEARLY ARE NOT. ISRAEL'S INFLUENCE WITH HADDAD AND OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS OVER WHICH HADDAD MAY NOT HAVE FULL CONTROL IS A FACT, AND IT SHOULD BE USED CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO REACH A PRACTICAL ACCOMMODATION WITH THE UN. NOW THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT UNIFIL WILL DEAL WITH HADDAD AS THE DE FACTO REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEBANESE GOVT, THERE CAN BE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON THE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTH. THE NET EFFECT OF THESE MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THE IMPRESSIONS THEY HAVE LEFT HAS TENDED TO WEAKEN UNIFIL'S CREDIBILITY, INTERNATIONALLY AND IN LEBANON, AND HAS CAUSED EMBARRASSMENT TO A FRAGILE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. WE CANNOT BELIEVE THIS IN ISRAEL'S CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG-TERM INTERESTS.

-- AT THE ILMAC MEETING, JUNE 12, IT WAS APPARENTLY LEFT THAT NO ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH UNTIL A FURTHER MEETING. THE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO LEBANESE QUESTIONS INVOLVING UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT AND THE NEED FOR ISRAEL TO EXERT CONTROL OVER THE MILITIAS SUPPOSEDLY NOT LED BY HADDAD SHOULD BE PROMPT AND POSITIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LPOPE:SEB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0489
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780655/aaaabvhk.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d1866088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2336613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: HADDADI'S CONDITIONS
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, PBOR, IS, LE
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1866088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014